

## **Key Messages**

**Subject:** Yonge Subway Extension

**Date:** April 9, 2019

**Ref:** eDocs # 9345343

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### **Top Line Messages Post Funding Announcement:**

- We are thrilled with this investment in York Region – the Yonge Subway extension will create jobs and economic growth across both York Region and the GTA.
- York Region welcomes the \$5.6B investment for the Yonge Subway Extension – a critical part of the Regional Transportation Plan and top priority for Regional Council.
- The Ford Government has recognized the importance of York Region – and all of our municipalities – to Ontario's economy as one of the fastest growing regions not only in Ontario, but all of Canada.
- The Yonge Subway Extension will help get both people and business moving in the GTHA by getting congestion off our roads and connecting the 905 & 416.
- The project has been studied and planned, meaning we are poised to put shovels in the ground within the next couple of years - it's now time to reap the harvest of that investment and start building a subway that will serve hundreds of thousands of Ontarians.

### **Primary Messages:**

- A project of this size and scope requires the financial support of both the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario over a long period of time. York Region very much appreciates the investments made in our region.
- Creating a seamless transportation network that supports all Ontario residents and connects people and places, benefits everyone.
- York Region is committed to working with our partners to deliver the Yonge Subway Extension. York Region and our funding partners have invested in years

of planning and engineering, and maintaining momentum is important. These mega subway projects take time to deliver and get it right.

- The Yonge Subway Extension is the top transit infrastructure priority of Regional Council, the Region's nine municipal governments and many of the Region's business organizations.
- This project will allow York Region to keep up with the tremendous growth it is experiencing along its centres and corridors, making it easier for commuters to get to where they need to go. When fully operational, the Yonge subway will move two riders every second of the day.
- This segment of Yonge Street requires 2,500 bus trips a day to accommodate the current ridership. If the subway is extended, it will significantly reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. 2,500 weekday bus trips releases 36 tonnes of carbon into the air each workday – over 9,000 tonnes per year.
- The economic impact of this project is massive, potentially leading to the creation of more than 35,000 jobs and additional housing options for up to 88,000 residents. During construction it would create 21,800 person-years of employment.
- The Yonge subway extension is a critical part of the regional transportation plan. By extending the subway to Richmond Hill, we will be creating an anchor hub that links GO service, subway service, bus rapid transit and BRT/express service along Highway 407 ETR. This would provide commuters in both York Region and the City of Toronto with a greater variety of transit and transportation options.
- This project will build on other transit investments, completing a critical missing link in the transit network of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.
- Our economic centres are thriving, multi-faceted cities. In southern York Region, Markham and Vaughan are two of the GTA's four employment "Megazones" and together with the Pearson airport zone these Megazones have more jobs than Downtown Toronto.

### **Secondary Messages:**

- Over the past several months major development applications for over 6,700 residential units have been submitted along the YSE corridor – with an additional 860 that are already under construction. The pace of development is anticipated to remain strong and meet or exceed Official Plan and other anticipated growth

projections.

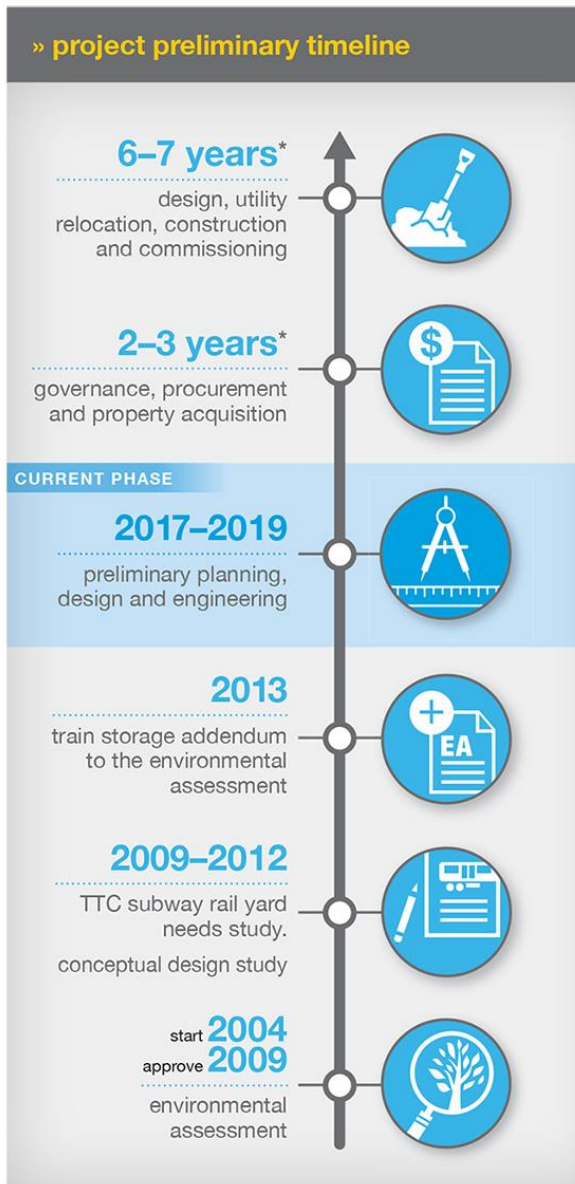
- Today, a growing number of all passenger vehicle traffic crossing Steeles Avenue in the AM peak periods is destined for work in York Region. These are City of Toronto residents electing to drive given no rapid transit alternative.
- 90,000 City of Toronto residents work in York Region (i.e. reverse commuters). The majority of Toronto residents working in York Region live north of Hwy. 401, 70% of them in Toronto's North York and Scarborough areas. The majority of these City of Toronto residents currently drive a vehicle to work due to the lack of rapid transit alternatives.
- Initial funding has been secured allowing us to begin preliminary engineering and design work and is well underway.
- Teams are in the field doing bore hole testing which is nearing completion.
- Conceptual design has advancing and will be at 10% this year.

### **Key Messages: Preliminary Planning, Design and Engineering (PDE) for Yonge Subway Extension**

- The preliminary planning, design and engineering [PDE] phase of the Yonge Subway Extension is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2020. Activities include:
  - Refined the project scope of work
  - Geotechnical and hydrological investigations
  - Infrastructure design including alignment, track, tunnel, station, systems, and utility design
  - Construction and operational work plans
  - Development of a project schedule
  - Completion of an updated project cost estimate
  - Support an updated business case and economic analysis
  - Stakeholder engagement
- Since the start of field work (December 2018) approximately 2,200 bulletins have been hand-delivered to businesses and residents along the corridor and over 20 bulletins have been issued electronically to the Yonge Subway Extension database.
- There are two dedicated Community Liaisons on the corridor representing Toronto and York Region.



## Timelines:



\*Pending capital funding. Schedule subject to change.